

NI Bulletin

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Secretary's Report

At the Board of Governors meeting on 2 November 2011, the Secretary tallied the ballots received and the Board certified the election of Carl Young to the office of President, Peter Goldmann to the office of Vice-President, Christopher Carson to the office of Secretary, Don Douglas to the office of Treasurer, & John Stich as Director at Large, to serve through the end of 2013.

C.D. Carson



Membership Report

The following persons have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by May 1, 2012 the memberships are effective that day.

- 2745 Reuben F. Morris III (Skip). Ancients, Medieval & Colonial Americas.
- 2746 Kevin Otto, 3923 Lake Brazos Lane, Richmond, TX 77406-8089. Cast coins of China, Annam, Korea & Japan.



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Coins Countermarked with Political Messages and Related Pieces

Gregory G. Brunk, NI #749

(Continued from September / October 2011 *NI Bulletin*)

Catalog: Part I (India - Italy)

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— India —

Azad Hind

Pukhraj J. Surana (1981) suggested that this countermark indicates the Provincial Government of Azad Hind, whose leader was Subhas Chandra Bose. Also known as the Indian National Army, it cooperated with the Axis powers against the Allies in World War II in an attempt to gain Indian independence from Britain. It had its own bank and issued its own currency. More recently, it has been suggested these pieces are fantasies. I have no opinion on their legitimacy.

P. G. A. H. / 1943

India Rupee: 1942

For a more detailed presentation on this countermark see Joseph E. Boling's article.

References

Surana, Pukhraj J. 1981. "I.N.A. Currency," *Numismatic Digest* June: 68-70.

Boling, Joseph E. 2012 "A Provisional's Provisional, Azad Hind Counterstamp of India" *NI Bulletin* Vol. 47, Nos. 1/2 (January / February): 21-24.

— ITALY —

Communists

The communists of Milan and Turin reportedly countermarked fascist coins in the mid-1920s. Two examples of hammer and sickle countermarks have been noted on Italian two lire, but neither piece seems to have circulated after stamping. Given that only two coins are known, it is not possible to determine if the pieces are genuine or more recently made fantasies.

Hammer and Sickle

Two Lire: 1923 (2)



Two Lire

Nazi Fantasies

Renato (1954) reported in the early 1950s that small Italian coins dated 1941 to 1943 had appeared on the numismatic market with three fantasy countermarks. RSI indicates *Repubblica Sociale Italiana*.

R. S. I. in Square

Italian Coins

Swastika

Italian Coins

Eagle / Swastika

Italian Coins

Naples and Sicily

This kingdom consisted of southern Italy and Sicily, and also was known as the Two Sicilies. It was controlled by Spain after 1502 until Naples was conquered by Austria in 1707. In 1733 Don Carlos of Spain was recognized as its king. From then on it was contested by Spain, Austria, France and various Italian factions.

In 1848 a series of pro-democracy revolts rocked many of the European monarchies. Ferdinand II (1830-1859) faced such a revolt in Palermo, and ordered this Sicilian city to be bombarded by his navy. The Sicilians nicknamed him Bomba. These coins often are countermarked above the head of Ferdinand II and on his neck, while others only have a single countermark. Marmor (1970: 60) reported that OLIM / BOMBA also exists, but did not explain what it means.

BOMBA

Naples and Sicily 120 Grana: 1834 (2), 1836, 1840, 1844 (3), 1848 (2)



(sample)



120 Grana



120 Grana

OLIM / BOMBA

Naples and Sicily 120 Grana: UK (1852?)



120 Grana

Papal States

In the mid-18th century the territories of the Pope stretched from the edge of the Venetian Republic to south of Rome. During the Wars of Italian Unification the Pope was supported by the French Emperor Napoleon III, and their combined forces defeated an attempt by Garibaldi's volunteers to seize Rome. After the battle of Mentana in 1867 the French maintained a garrison in Civitavecchia, but the troops were withdrawn in August of 1870 because of the Franco-Prussian War. By the end

of the year the Papal States had been annexed by Vittorio Emanuele II, and all that remained of the Pope's once vast territories was the Vatican City.

While Catholics viewed Pius IX (1846-1878) as very progressive, there was considerable resentment among Italian secularists and secularists around the world about his meddling in cultural and educational policy. The dispute was particularly heated in Germany, where a goal of the newly formed German Empire was to separate the German Catholics from Rome in the way that Henry VIII had reduced Catholic influence in England by creating the Anglican Church.

Shortly after the creation of the German Empire and the triumph of the German Protestants, Otto von Bismarck began the *kulturkampf* against Catholics. When Pius IX convened a Vatican Council that proclaimed the Doctrine of Papal Infallibility, the Germans responded by denying Catholics equal civil rights as they were viewed as seditious and "controlled by a foreign power." Many clerics were arrested. The *kulturkampf* lasted fifteen years, and only ended in 1887 after negotiations with Pius' successor, Leo XIII.

The first piece is a five lire that has been engraved to show the Holy Father wearing a suit with a high-wing collar, a skull cap, and smoking a Meerschaum pipe. When the coin appeared at auction, it was interpreted to mean that Pius was pro-German following Napoleon III's withdrawal of French forces from Rome in 1870, but if he ever was pro-German, that sentiment did not last long.



Five Lire

I examined an 1868 ten soldi with the same symbolism. Both the coin and the engraving are uncirculated, which suggests the pieces were made by a jeweler in Rome and sold as souvenirs like Vatican City coins are today. The engraved coins of President Paul Kruger of the Transvaal Republic that will be cataloged later also show him smoking a pipe. Apparently both sorts of pieces refer to a 19th century phrase that the writer does not understand. Does any reader have a suggestion?



Ten Soldi (enlarged ×2)

Even more puzzling are the coins of Pius IX that have been engraved into the bust of the German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Were they made by Italian secularists who favored Bismarck's *kulturkampf* and a great reduction in Church power?



Lira (enlarged ×2)

Lira with the Pope's bust engraved to be Bismarck in a spiked German helmet



Five Lire

Five Lire with the Pope as Bismarck in a business suit

Cervaro

This enigmatic counterstamp only appears on Papal States coins, usually half baioccos that have been converted into medals (CNI-112). Almost all of them are carefully holed at the top of the wreath. CERVARO in a depressed rectangle—like a silversmith's hallmark—is stamped so that it often is in alignment with the coin's legend MEZZO / BAIOCO. Although a number of examples are known, their purpose has never been explained. They apparently refer to the town of Cervaro, which was located on the border of the Papal States and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

CERVARO in Depressed Rectangle

Papal States Half Baiocco: 1841, 1844, 1845 (2), 1851 UK



Half Baiocco



Half Baiocco

Chained Cross / CERVARO in Depressed Rectangle (Twice)

Papal States Baiocco: UK



Baiocco

Sardinia

So little has been written about Italian countermarked coins that other types certainly must exist. Indeed, Markus Molenda recently reported these two pieces, which have not been noted before in the literature.

Crowned Sardinian Eagle (Incuse)

Sardinian Five Centesimi: 1826



Five Centesimi

The movement toward Italian unification began in Sardinia under King Carlo Alberto (1831-1849). He was a progressive who opposed Austrian influence in Northern Italy, established a constitutional monarchy at the time of the Revolutions of 1848 and was the father of the first King of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele II. While there are a number of Italian statues of Alberto, this countermark most likely depicts the statue by Carlo Marocchetti that was erected in Turin's Piazza Carlo Alberto in 1861.

Carlo Alberto on Horseback Left, all in Double Circle

Sardinian Five Centesimi: 1826



Five Centesimi

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- Marmor, Arnold. 1970. "King Bomba's Coins," *Coins (UK)* March: 60.
Renato, Vesco. 1954. "Monete Imperiali con contromarche nazi-fasciste apocrife," *Italia Numismatics* 1954 (July): 53-54.

An Unpublished 1-1/2 Talerklippe of Neuenahr

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

I have collected German coins for many years but until this year I had never come across an issue of Neuenahr. There are none listed in the Krause Standard Catalog of German Coins, not even in the greatly improved and more comprehensive 3rd edition, 1501 - Present. In January 2011 I saw the magnificent klippe of Adolph of Neuenahr here illustrated in the catalog of the Fritz Rudolf Kunker Auction 180 in Berlin (Lot 228). Apparently it previously appeared in Münzen und Medaillen Sale 77 in Basel in 1992 (Lot 744). However, it is not in Davenport or Noss or in the great collections of coins from the region, Pieper, Vielhaber or Weygand.

The counts of Neuenahr had lands on the left bank of the Rhine between Bonn and Coblenz. Born in 1545, Adolph was the son of Count Gumprecht II of Neuenahr-Alpen. After the death of his father in 1556, he was raised at the court of his guardian and uncle, the Protestant Count Hermann of Neuenahr and Mörs, who was married to Magdalene, a half-sister of William the Silent, Prince of Orange. In 1570 he married his guardian's sister, his aunt Anna Walburga von Neuenahr, the widow of Philip de Montmorency, Count of Hoorn who had been executed by the Duke of Alba. When Hermann died childless in 1578, Adolph inherited his lands, including the county of Mörs. All his lands were close to the border with the Spanish Netherlands.

Adolph first came into prominence in the Cologne War, one of the many religious wars of the 16th century as the doctrines of Luther, Calvin and other Protestants opposed to the Catholic Church spread across Europe. In December 1582 Adolph's friend Gebhard, Truchsess (High Steward) von Waldburg, Elector and Archbishop of Cologne, converted to the Calvinist faith. One of his predecessors, Hermann von Wied, had converted to Protestantism and immediately resigned as Archbishop. Another, Salentin von Isenburg, had resigned as Archbishop in order to marry, forbidden for a Catholic priest but allowed by the Protestants. Gebhard not only did not resign but in February 1583 married Agnes von Mansfeld-Eisleben. In March the Pope excommunicated Gebhard. The Cathedral Chapter contained both Protestants and Catholics but the Catholic majority elected a new archbishop, the 17 year old Ernst of Bavaria, brother of Duke Wilhelm V. War broke out between the two rivals—the Cologne War. Gebhard's army was commanded by his friend Philip von Neuenahr, who proved an able general. Initially Gebhard's forces held their own in a war where both sides committed atrocities in the name of religion.

In May 1583 Gebhard established himself in the castle at Werl in Westphalia. With money running low, "on 26 August Gebhard ordered that all church ornaments should without delay be handed over to Eberhard Natürlichen von der Recke, Judge at Werl, and also to a goldsmith named Erasmus. Accordingly all the church officials and their assistants were obliged to bring forward all the church ornaments which, despite the promise of custody, were melted and struck into coins. On these Talers and gold Gulden one reads the inscription: *Tandem bona causa triumphat* (at length the good cause triumphs)" (from G. von Kleinsorgen, *The Diary of Gebhard Truchses*, written about 1590, 1780 Münster edition cited by Krusy).



Archbishopric of Cologne. Gebhard Truchsess von Waldburg (1577-83)

Obv.: Bust of Gebhard r., dividing the year 15 83, inscription around.

Rev.: Quartered arms of Mainz (wheel), Cologne (cross), Trier (cross) and Pfalz (lion rampant & fusilly (diamond pattern)). Inscription around + MO•NO•RHEN•ELECT•PRINC•CONSOCIAT (of the elector of the Rhine and associated princes). 40.5 mm diameter, 43.69 g.

The Talers, 1-1/2 Talers (pictured here) and double Talers from this minting are listed under Cologne in Davenport (9138-9141). All have the 1583 date except for a 2 Talerklippe of 1584. Perhaps some hidden church silver came to light the year after Gebhard's order.

Bernhard Schulte was a distinguished numismatist who worked at Münzen und Medaillen, an old Basel firm which unfortunately no longer exists. He wrote the catalog note when they auctioned the Neuenahr 1-1/2 Taler in 1992. Apparently a very similar coin appeared in a 1928 A.E Cahn sale which was identified as being struck in Werl at that time. Schulte believed that Gebhard struck the Neuenahr 1-1/2 Taler in the name of his general, Philip, as a propaganda piece at the same time as he struck his own coins from the Werl church silver.

Obverse: +MO*NO*ADOLPH**CO*A*NVENAR*ET*LIMP (= Limburg). Adolph Count of Neuenahr and Limburg armored bust l., holding general's baton.

Reverse: DEO ET PRIN CIPI SER FID* (I will be faithful to God and my prince) 8 3. Three-helmeted irregular shield with Neuenahr arms (quartered eagles [Neuenahr] and lions rampant left. [Limburg], with a horizontal bars [Heppendorf] escutcheon), breaking out of circle

The coin is 43 x 43 mm (59 mm corner to corner) and weighs 43.16 g.



Adolph was very faithful to Gebhard and fought hard for him. However, numbers were against them. Gebhard, as a Calvinist, never got much help from the more important German Protestant princes, who were Lutherans, and for most of the war

could only rely on his brother, his friend Neuenahr, the Dutch rebels across the border and a small English force under the Earl of Leicester. Ernst was supported by Bavaria and some other Catholic rulers and received financial support from the Pope. However, what really tipped the scales in Ernst's favor was the intervention on his side of the Spanish army under Alexander Farnese, Duke of Parma, who was fighting the Dutch protestant rebels.

Adolph had captured Neuss in March 1586. He refortified and restocked the city and placed the young Friedrich Cloedt in charge of a garrison of 1,600 mostly German and Dutch soldiers. In July, Parma approached the city with an army of 10,000 and 45 cannons. His artillery pounded the walls for 30 hours and then at the ninth attempt the Spaniards broke into the city and sacked it. After that the war went downhill for Gebhard's side. Adolph von Neuenahr was driven out of all of his German possessions. However, he had already found a new base in the Netherlands (where he was known as Adolf van Nieuwenaar). In November 1583 the Stadtholder of the province of Gelderland was deposed after being caught in treasonable correspondence with Parma. Adolph was appointed in his place. In August 1584 his uncle, William the Silent, Prince of Orange, was assassinated. William had been Stadtholder of the provinces of Utrecht and Overijssel and Adolph was appointed in his place. As Stadtholder he commanded the military forces of the States-General in his provinces. He led several campaigns but with little success against superior forces. In 1585 the Spanish general Juan Baptista de Tassis defeated him and the army of the Dutch freebooter Maarten Schenk van Nydeggen (who also fought for Gebhard in Germany) at the Battle of Amerongen.

In 1588 Gebhard, sick, out of money and having lost most of his territories and allies, retired to Strasbourg and relinquished his claim to the electorate of Cologne to the protection of Adolph von Neuenahr and Schenk. Adolph and Schenk continued to fight for him but in the summer of 1589 Schenk was killed at Nijmegen and on 18 October Adolph died in an explosion while testing a new piece of artillery.

Adolf von Neuenahr was a distinguished soldier who led an adventurous life. It is pleasing he is commemorated by this beautiful coin struck by the friend to whom he was so faithful, since he did not have the mint right himself.

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- Davenport, John S. *German Talers 1500-1600*. Frankfurt am Main: Numismatischer Verlag P.N. Schulten, 1979.
- Krusy, Hans. *Die Münzen von Werl (Nachrichten aus dem Werler Stadtarchiv, Heft 4)*. Werl: Rudolf Preising, 1979.
- Wikipedia: Adolf van Nieuwenaar. On-line accessed 9-February-2012 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_van_Nieuwenaar
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The First Swiss Federal Coinage

C.D. Carson, NI #2636

When the modern Constitution of the Swiss Confederation was adopted in 1848, the power of minting coins was given to the Federal government. The new Federal Legislature accordingly took up the matter as one of its first concerns, and passed a Coinage Act on 7 May 1850. While this Act, which has the German title *Bundesgesetz über das Eidgenössische Münzwesen*, has been extensively amended over the sixteen decades and more since it went into force, the pattern it set has persisted down to the present day, and some of the information contained in it is not to be found in the usual references. There are a total of thirteen articles, of which only the first seven deal with the money unit and coins, the remainder involving legal tender provisions, acceptance of other coins by the government, and similar matters. The following summary will hopefully save the reader from having to locate and interpret a copy of the statute.

Article 1. The standard unit of money is defined as five grams of silver, nine-tenths fine, to be called the frank.

Article 2. The frank is divided into one hundred rappen or centimes.

Article 3. The standard coins are pieces of one and two rappen in copper; five, ten, and twenty rappen in billon; and one-half frank or fifty rappen, one, two, and five franken in silver.

Article 4. The copper coins consist of copper with an alloy of zinc; the weight of the one-rappen piece is 1-1/2 grams, and of the two rappen, 2-1/2 grams. The five-rappen piece weighs 1-2/3 grams, with a silver fineness of 50/1000, the ten rappen 2-1/2 grams, 100 fine, and the twenty rappen 3-1/4 grams, 150 fine; the alloy is of copper, zinc, and nickel. (This corresponds to 0.0027, 0.0080 and 0.0157 Troy ounce ASW, respectively.) The fineness of the silver coins is that of the standard unit, with weights in proportion according to value.

Article 5. A remedy of fineness, greater or less than the specification, of 2/1000 parts is allowed for the silver coins, and 7/1000 for the billon coins.

Article 6. A remedy of weight is allowed in the copper coins, of 15/1000 parts greater or less than the specification; in the billon coins, of 18/1000 in the five-rappen piece, 15/1000 in the ten rappen, and 12/1000 in the twenty rappen; and silver coins, of 7/1000 in the half-frank piece, 5/1000 in the frank and two franken, and 3/1000 in the five franken. For the silver and billon coins, this is measured on a piece-by-piece basis, but for the copper coins, taking ten franken worth or a kilogram (nominal weight) together.

Article 7. The silver coins correspond in dimensions to the French types.



1 Rappen 1851: Bronze, 16 mm, 1.5 g (nominal)



10 Rappen 1875: Billon, 19 mm diameter, 2.5 g (nominal)

It is certainly interesting to observe that the Swiss currency, associated for so long with gold, began as a pure silver standard, with no provisions made for the striking or circulation of gold. The complexity of the billon coinage, concerning which very little information is available in other sources, is remarkable, considering that it consists of only three denominations. Not only are there three different compositions involved, which surely produced confusion in the operation of the Mint, but the silver content of the 20 rappen is less than twice that of the 10, while the 10 has nearly three times as much silver in it as the 5. It must also count as one of the earliest uses of the “quaternary” silver-copper-nickel-zinc alloy which was to become ubiquitous in the low-fineness silver coins of the twentieth century.

Reference

Gesetzessammlung für den Kanton St. Gallen, Zweiter Band. St. Gall, 1868: J.J. Sonderegger. Text of the Act is at №191, pp 661-664. (Available from Google Books. Text is printed in a very heavy German black-letter face.)

Images Courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com).

Orientation of the Golden Fleece On Spanish Colonial Eight Escudos

Carlos Jara M.

The matter of the orientation of the Golden Fleece in the dies of the Spanish Colonial bust type gold coinage has hardly been mentioned before, and few seem to have noticed that it follows a regular pattern or rule.

Prior to the Secret Royal Ordinance of March 18, 1771¹ and the corresponding proclamation of May 29, 1772, which stipulated the change in the type of coins from the pillar to the bust coinage (in silver) and from the rat-nose to the “regular” bust coinage (in gold), the gold coins that had been minted in Spanish American mints had the Golden Fleece (when present) facing right² as shown on the specimen below.

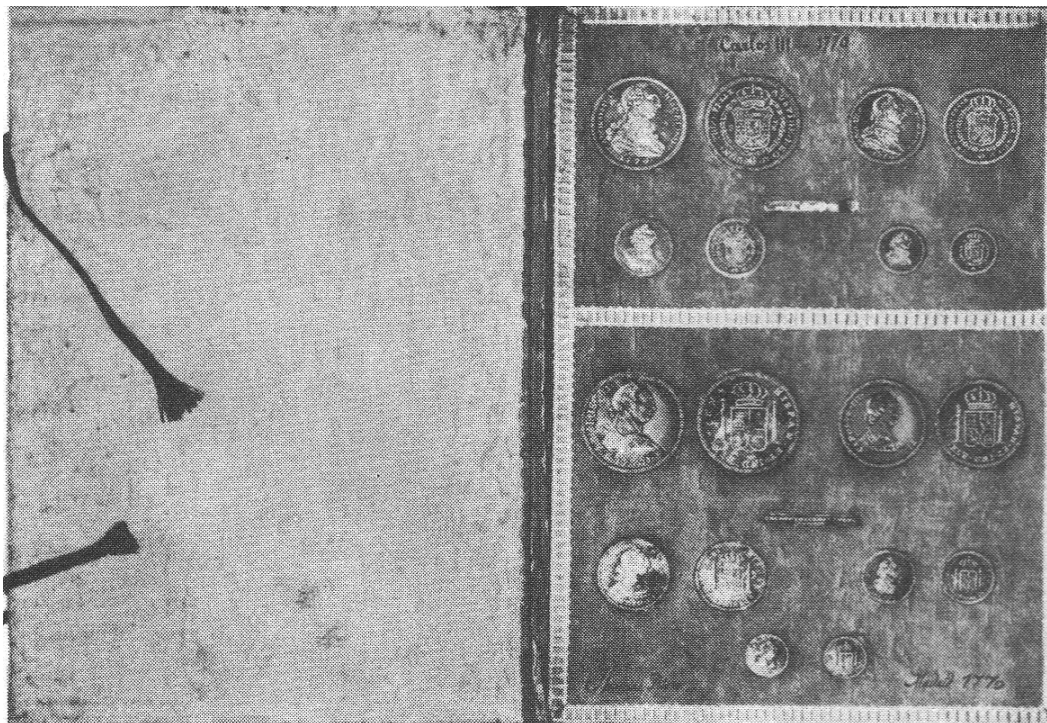


**Charles III, Lima, 8 Escudos, 1769 JM
Showing correct orientation of the Golden Fleece
(Aureo & Calicó, March 8, 2012, lot 1343)**

¹ The Proclamation informed the public that the weight and fineness were to remain unchanged, while the Secret Royal Ordinance directed the mints to carry out a reduction in fineness. The questionable justification for this reduction was a coin of superior workmanship compared to the milled pillar dollars that had circulated since 1732. See Céspedes del Castillo, *Las Casas de Moneda en los Reinos de Indias*, Vol. 1: 224.

² This is using the heraldic convention from the perspective of the wearer. Heraldic right is like “stage right.” Facing right means the fleece is facing right the mintmark on the reverse side of these coins.

In 1772 the authorities at the Madrid mint dispatched uniface samples to serve as models for the new coinage.



***Muestrario* or set of uniface trial samples sent from Madrid to the Santiago Mint to serve as models for the new bust coinage that would have to be struck in accordance with the Royal Ordinance of May 29, 1772 (in the collection of the Santiago Mint).**

This introduction of a new coinage type was deemed a good opportunity to order and establish a more uniform rendition of the Spanish Coat of Arms in its coins. From the documentation that we will present following, it will become clear that the wish of the Madrid authorities was that the Golden Fleece should face right on this new coinage of the bust type. However, the trial strikes sent to each colonial Mint still showed the Golden Fleece facing left,³ due to an oversight.

Below are some specimens of various denominations from several mints showing the incorrect orientation which must have been struck after receipt of the decree mentioned above.

³ Indeed, the trial strikes still housed in the Santiago Mint collection, and plated in Burzio's "*Diccionario de la moneda hispanoamericana*", vol. 3 page xvii, have the Golden Fleece facing left.



**Charles III, México, 1 Escudo, 1773 FM
(Aureo & Calicó, March 8, 2012, lot 1302)**



**Charles III, Popayán, 2 Escudos, 1774 JS
(Aureo & Calicó, March 8, 2012, lot 1317)**



**Charles III, Santa Fe (Nuevo Reino), 8 Escudos, 1772 VJ
(Aureo & Calicó, March 8, 2012, lot 1393)**

In consequence, another ordinance, dated October 12, 1773, was sent from Madrid to Spain's colonial mints in America, correcting this oversight. It is this ordinance, and it's acknowledgement of receipt by the Santiago Mint (dated April 28, 1774) which we will now transcribe; to the best of our knowledge, it was previously unpublished:

Don Juln de Arriaga.

Sor Superte de la Real Casa de Moneda de Chile.

En la compocizion de los nuevos zellos de moneda, y sus pruebas, qe vió, y aprobó el Rey, colocó el Gravador Gral el Cordero del Collar del Toyson qe rodea las Armas de la de oro sobre la izquierda, y el de los bustos por todas clases sobre la dra [derecha] siguiendo muchos, y buenos exemplares qe los tienen ya, a una, ya a otra mano, y conforme al estilo del Blason, que permite esta variedad en los adornos qe por ir pendientes no tienen situacion fixa: No obstante estas razones, parecio despues mas combente [conveniente] qe aquella insignia mirase ciempre por ambos lados a la dra, y assi se executa en la moneda qe se lavra en las Casas de estos Reynos, pero como los caxones de nuevas matrices pa las de America havian marchado ya, no pudo hacerse esta advertencia a los talladores de ellas, a la ynstruccion qe se les embio formada para su Govno [gobierno], por el Gravador Gral [general], y sin embargo lo ha prevenido este confidencialmte a los qe conoce, y es regular qe lo practiquen: aunque la expresada variedad es casi imperceptible pa los más, es justo ebitarlo y qe la moneda se lavre con perfecta uniformidad en todas las Casas de S. M. y a este fin remito a V. M. de su Real Orden el adjunto dibujo dispuesto por el mismo Gravador Gral, para que dispongase arreglen en esa Casa a lo qe demuestra, situando en adelante el cordero del toyson siempre sre [sobre] la derecha, y salga toda la moneda con la ygualdad qe corresponde.

Dios gue a V. M. ms as. San Lorenzo. 12 de Octubre de 1773.

En la ciudad de Santiago de Chile en veinte, y ocho dias del mes de Abril de mil setecientos setenta, y quatro años el Sor Superintendte de esta Real Casa de Moneda les ha hecho entender en el expresado dia el contenido de las dos ordenes que recivio el dia de ayer por el correo de Buenos Ayres remitidas de ordn de S. M. por el Exmo Sor Dn Fray Julian de Arriaga a las personas a quienes compete pa qe en su ynteliga procuren puntualizar lo mandado en las referidas ordenes sus fhas dose, y veinte y quatro de octubre del año pasado de setecientos setenta y tres, y lo firmo su Sa de que foy fee. Y pasence a la Contada [Contaduria] pa qe tomandose razn se archiven.

Landazuri. Por mandado de su Sa Jph Antonio Gomez de Silva Escno Publico.

English translation

Don Julian de Arriaga.
Superintendent of the Royal Mint of Chile.

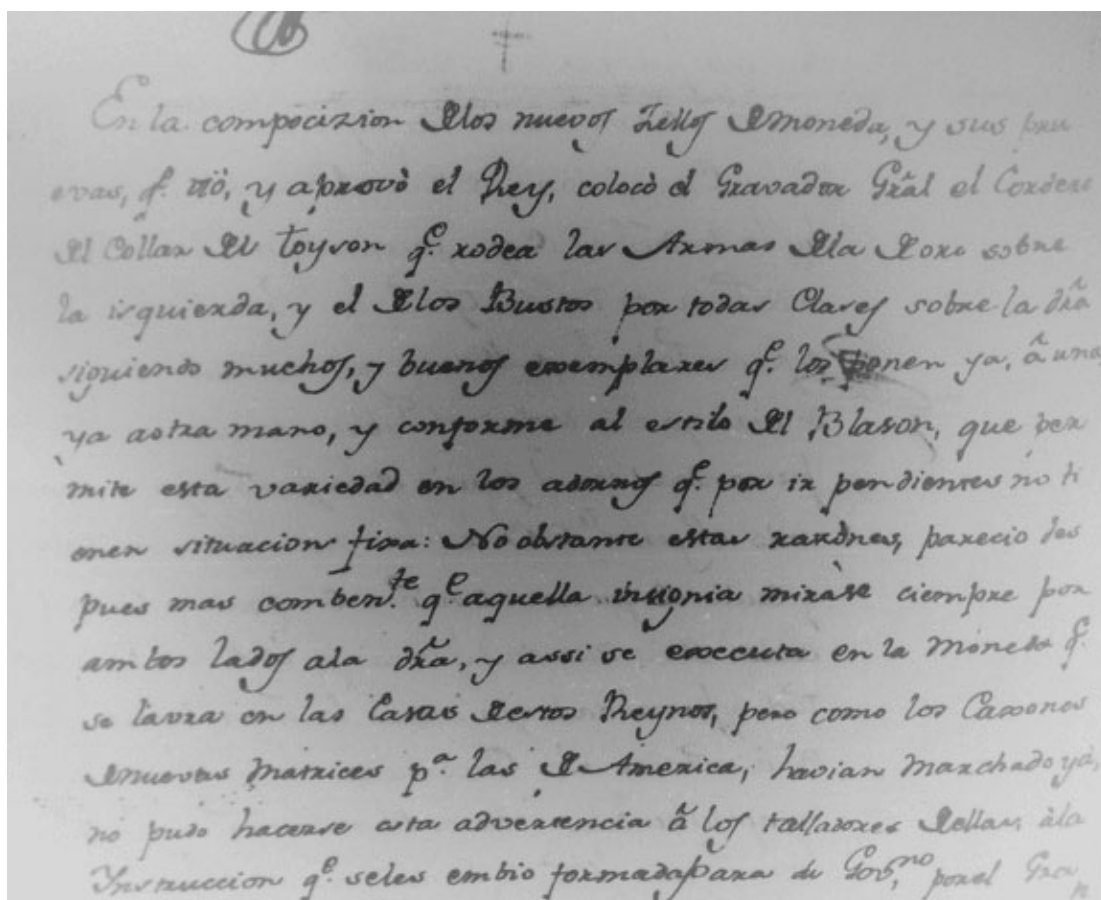
In the composition of the new dies for coinage, and their resulting trial strikes, that were seen, and approved by the King, the General Engraver [of the Madrid Mint] placed the ram in the Order of the Golden Fleece that surrounds the coat of arms with its head facing left on the gold coins, and with its head facing right on the [Golden Fleece placed below the] bust of various denominations of coins; good coins are known with the Golden Fleece's head facing in either direction, all of which show an accurate rendition of the coat of arms, since the latter allows this variety on the orientation of the fleece which is hanging and therefore has no fixed position: however valid the previous reasons may be, it has since seemed more appropriate that the fleece should always face right on both sides of the coins, and this [convention] has been followed in the coins that are being struck in the Mints of these Kingdoms [meaning the mints of peninsular Spain], but because the boxes of new hubs for the mints of the Americas had already been sent, a mention to this matter was not included in the instruction sent to the engravers of those mints by the Government and its general engraver, although the latter has personally communicated this instruction to the ones [engravers] among his personal acquaintances, and they usually follow it; although the mentioned variety is almost imperceptible to the great majority, it is better to prevent it so that the coinage is struck with perfect uniformity among all the mints of His Majesty, and to this end I am submitting to Y. H., from his Real Order, the enclosed drawing by said General Engraver, for you to order that Mint [of Santiago] to follow it precisely, placing from now onwards the fleece facing right, to obtain a coinage with all the corresponding uniformity.

May God bless Y. H. for many years. San Lorenzo. October 12, 1773.

In the city of Santiago de Chile, on the 28th day of April of 1774, the Superintendent of this mint [of Santiago de Chile] has informed on this day the matters contained in the two ordinances dated 12 and 24 of October of the past year of 1773, and received yesterday by the mail of Buenos Aires, sent by order of His Majesty by the Most Excellent Sir Don Friar Julian de Arriaga to the correspondent persons so that they follow them and endeavor to achieve the instructions contained therein and this was signed by H. H., to which I testify.

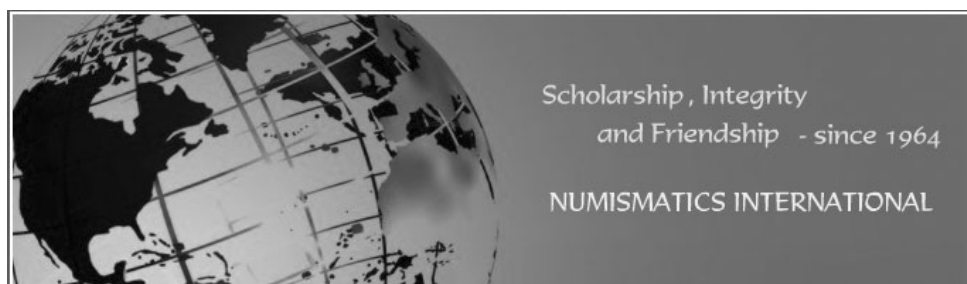
Pass on to the Accounting offices for their registration and archival.

Landazuri. On behalf of Sir Joseph Antonio Gomez de Silva, public scribe.



Royal Ordinance dated October 12, 1773, instructing the Santiago Mint to place the Golden Fleece facing right in its gold coins⁴

As we can deduce from the previous transcription, the definitive instructions regarding the orientation of the Golden Fleece on the dies for the gold coins only reached Santiago on April 28, 1774. Consequently, and following the “incorrect” position of the Golden Fleece as it appeared on the trial strikes sent as samples from Madrid, all known Santiago 8 Escudos of the new bust type dated 1772 and 1773 (and thus struck prior to receiving that Ordinance) show this “incorrect”⁵ placement for the fleece.



⁴ Archivo Nacional de Chile: *Contaduría Mayor 2^{da} serie, Sección Casa de Moneda*.

⁵ Although at the time of their minting, the Santiago Mint’s officials and its engraver in particular did not know this yet.



8 Escudos 1772, Santiago Mint
Note the direction of the Golden Fleece (facing left)
(Cayón, February 26-27, 2010, lot 2649)

Evidently, some Santiago dies dated 1774 were prepared prior to the receipt of the mentioned ordinance on April 28 of that year, and these still showed the Golden Fleece facing left. In fact, it is unclear whether it was deemed necessary to prepare new dies after April 28 (which in theory should have the Golden Fleece facing right) since all presently known gold coins dated 1774 show the Golden Fleece facing left, such as the specimen illustrate below.



8 Escudos 1774, Santiago Mint
Note the direction of the Golden Fleece (facing left)
(Cayón, September 15, 2011, lot 370)

Later, during the reigns of Charles IV and Ferdinand VII, there was a variance at Potosí and Santiago with many eight escudos showing the Golden Fleece orientation to the left. The Aureo auction of 30 April 2008 illustrated 17 such specimens of Charles IV minted at Santiago dated from 1800 to 1808. It seems Lima, Madrid, Mexico, Popayán and Santa Fe (Nuevo Reino) maintained the heraldic right presentation.

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Quiz

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The Science and Tools of Numismatics always poses a problem for the quiz writer, let's try these:

- 1) What are the minimum tools a numismatist needs?
- 2) How many coins does a numismatist need in the collection?
- 3) Name at least five areas of study encompassed by numismatics.
- 4) What are the names for the fixed and movable dies used in striking ancient coins?



1) Magnifier, light references (this answer can vary greatly). 2) Zero, since numismatics is a study of coins, medals, tokens, paper money and other similar instruments. A numismatic scholar needs only references, but having the coins is sure nice. 3) Politics, religion, geography, economics, history, metallurgy, manufacturing, language, and many more. 4) The fixed die is the anvil and the movable is the punch or trussel.

Quiz answers